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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0475

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO, ARA, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ECIN, ECON, XL
SUBJECT: PRM-8 FOLLOW-UP ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

REF: LETTER FROM MR. ARELLANO, DATED JANUARY 30, 1978

1. WE RECEIVED YOUR JANUARY 30 LETTER ONLY FEBRUARY 13. WE THEREFORE HOPE THESE COMMENTS WILL ARRIVE IN TIME TO BE OF USE IN BUREAU'S REPORT OF FOLLOW-UP ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.

2. THE PAPER ENCLOSED WITH YOUR LETTER WAS REFLECTIVE OF TRENDS IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING EASTERN CARIBBEAN AS WE SEE THEM. IN OUR OPINION, PAPER ACCURATELY STATED THAT MILITANCY OVER G-77 POSITIONS HAS SOFTENED SOMEWHAT IN HEMISPHERE, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ALLEVIATED ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN MANY COUNTRIES. NEGATIVE DEMONSTRATION EFFECT OF JAMAICA AND GUYANA HAS BEEN HELPFUL. JAMAICA HAS REPORTEDLY WITNESSED PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF FRIGHTENING AWAY FOREIGN INVESTORS AND TOURISTS, WHILE GUYANA'S EXPLICIT BRAND OF SOCIALISM HAS GOT IT INTO TROUBLE WITH IMF. THESE EXAMPLES HAVE NOT BEEN LOST ON ISLANDS WITHIN OUR JURISDICTION.

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3. UNFORTUNATELY, ECONOMIC RECOVERIES ARE OFTEN CYCLICAL IN NATURE, AND NEXT TROUGH MAY PROVE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SUB-SURFACE COHESION REMAINING IN G-77. LDC IMPATIENCE WHICH ERUPTED IN MANILA DECLARATION AND UNCTAD IV COULD DOUBLE IN FORCE NEXT TIME AROUND, ESPECIALLY IF COMMODITY PRICES FALL AND THERE IS NO COMMON FUND FOR RECOURSE, DUE TO WHAT WILL BE VIEWED BY

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G-77 AS U.S. TEMPORIZING OR WORSE.

4. CURRENT LULL IN CONFRONTATION BY G-77 MIGHT BE USED TO PERFORM ECONOMIC GOOD WORKS IN HEMISPHERE TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY U.S. DOMESTIC SITUATION. OTHERWISE, AT NEXT HOTPOINT, WITH NO GENUINE RECORD, WE MAY BE VERY HARD PRESSED TO REFUTE CRITICS WHO ALLEGE THAT OUR POLICY IS MERELY TO KEEP LID ON.

5. TO ANSWER YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION, WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT WITHIN OUR TINY CONSTITUENCIES TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENCES IN POSITION BETWEEN MINISTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES AND PERIPHERAL MINISTRIES, WHICH COULD NORMALLY CARE LESS. BARBADIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN DON BLACKMAN BAYS AT HEAD OF PACK AMONG G-77 SPOKESMEN FROM AREA. BARBADIAN MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS FROM OTHER ISLANDS AS WELL AS ECONOMIC OFFICIALS, ARE MORE MODERATE.

6. INITIATIVES DESCRIBED IN PAPER FOR MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES WOULD BE WELCOME IN BARBADOS, IF GIVEN EARLY CONCRETE EXPRESSION IN INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CLEARLY INTENDED FOR BARBADOS, EVEN IF CHANNELLED THROUGH CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. IN THIS CONNECTION, BARBADOS CERTAINLY QUALIFIES ON ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF PAPER'S CONDITIONS PRECEDENT FOR "POSITIVE SUPPORT."
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7. PAPER IMPLIES THAT CARIBBEAN IS DOING BETTER IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION THAN OTHER AREAS IN LATIN AMERICA. EVEN SO, CARICOM IS LIMPING BADLY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEMS IN GUYANA, JAMAICA, AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, BARBADOS. INSTITUTIONALLY, CARICOM PROBABLY SERVES AS WELL AS ANY ORGANIZATION COULD AT PRESENT IN THIS PART OF WORLD, GIVEN CONVENIENT INTERPRETATION OF COOPERATION IN CARIBBEAN.
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